



# Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 12 March 2004

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

[www.whitehouse.gov/homeland](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

## Daily Overview

- Federal Computer Week reports the widespread misuse of Social Security numbers and individual taxpayer identification numbers results in millions of dollars in federal benefit payments and tax refunds to workers not legally eligible to work or live in the United States. (See item [10](#))
- The New York Post reports a driverless, out-of-control LIRR locomotive roared through several crossings near the Queens–Brooklyn border hitting five vehicles and injuring four people, two of them critically. (See item [14](#))
- The IDG News Service reports that one day after releasing a trio of security patches, Microsoft is upgrading the seriousness of one of those fixes to from "important" to "critical." (See item [28](#))
- CNN reports Spanish government officials are pinning the blame for Thursday's blasts in Madrid, that killed at least 192 people, on the Basque separatist group ETA, but investigators are also exploring a lead with Arabic and Islamic links. (See item [32](#))

### DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 10, Agence France–Presse* — **Wind power increases in 2003.** Power capacity generated by the wind surged by more than a quarter last year, according to industry figures released Tuesday, March 10. **Wind generators installed around the world by the end of 2003 had the capacity to produce 39,294 megawatts, an increase of 8,133 MW, or 26%, over 2002, according to the American Wind Energy Association and European Wind Energy Association.** Almost all of the installed capacity is in Europe and the United States, which together account for 88% of the worldwide total. The only other significant player is India, which accounts for 5% of the total. The total global generating capacity of more than 39,000 megawatts is enough to power 9 million average American homes or 19 million average European households, or 47 million people, according to the associations.  
Source: <http://www.industryweek.com/DailyPage/newsitem.asp?id=5794>
2. *March 10, Associated Press* — **Harpswell voters reject LNG terminal.** The partners in a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal (LNG) in Harpswell, ME, announced Wednesday, March 10, they are ending work on the project in light of the outcome of a town referendum. Harpswell voters Tuesday, March 9, rejected a proposal to lease a former Navy fuel depot that would be the site of the \$350 million Fairwinds project. The margin was 55 percent opposed and 45 percent in favor. The Fairwinds partners — TransCanada and ConocoPhillips — said there remains a critical need for reliable, new sources of natural gas in the Northeast. The companies said they remain committed to pursuing opportunities to deliver clean and safe energy to these growing markets. Supporters said the Fairwinds project would create jobs and lower taxes, but opponents said it would hurt the local fishing industry and the town's rural, small-town character.  
Source: <http://www.wmtw.com/Global/story.asp?S=1700578>
3. *March 10, The News Item (PA)* — **Outage caused by vandalism.** A power outage blackened the Shamokin and Coal Township in Pennsylvania for almost two hours on Tuesday, March 9. Preliminary reports indicate that vandalism caused the outage that affected more than 9,100 homes and businesses throughout neighboring municipalities. PPL utility spokesperson Rod Keller confirmed that damage caused to the Ferndale substation in Coal Township created the outage that began at approximately 8:20 a.m. Power wasn't restored until about 10:15 a.m. "What our workers have told us is that there was some apparent vandalism at the site," Keller said. "The outage was caused by someone going up to the site and cutting a lock off of an airbreak and then throwing the break open, which cut off power to the substation." **The lock, a substantial padlock, could only be severed through the use of heavy bolt cutters, said Keller,** noting that the break was the only piece of equipment affected. "Our security team will be talking with our work crew and investigating the site," Keller said.  
Source: [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=11097342&BRD=2311&PAG=461&dept\\_id=482260&rft=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=11097342&BRD=2311&PAG=461&dept_id=482260&rft=6)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Sector**

4. *March 11, Media General News Service* — **DEQ to probe chemical-plant leak.** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) said March 10 it will investigate the cause of an equipment malfunction that resulted in the release of a pungent chemical into the air

**and the closure of five Pittsylvania County public schools.** A spokesman for the company said a thermal oxidizer, a pollution-control device, unexpectedly shut down at 6 a.m. March 9 prompting a small amount of dicyclopentadiene to vent into the air. While the chemical carries little health risk in small doses, it can cause coughing and eye, nose, and throat irritations. **"We want to better understand the cause of the shutdown that occurred," said David Miles, the DEQ's deputy regional division director and acting air compliance manager. "Certainly, we want to discuss future prevention so we don't run this exercise again."** Miles said the agency was alerted to the chemical release immediately after it occurred, before his office opened. He said DEQ's answering service routed the call to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

Source: [http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD\\_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1031774223280&path=!news&s=1045855934842](http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1031774223280&path=!news&s=1045855934842)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

5. *March 11, New York Times* — **Army retraining soldiers to meet its shifting needs. Hard-pressed to fill critical jobs in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army is retraining thousands of forces essential to the cold war, like tank operators and artillerymen, to be military police officers, civil affairs experts and intelligence analysts, positions the Pentagon needs for long-term stabilizing operations.** The retraining is part of a larger effort that over the next five years will reassign about 100,000 reservists and active-duty soldiers in the Army's biggest restructuring in 50 years. The aim is to reshape the Army to be faster to the fight, to relieve the stress on a relatively small number of Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers who have been called up repeatedly in recent years and to tap 500,000 reservists from all services who have not been activated in the past decade. By early 2005, the Army plans to convert 18 National Guard field artillery batteries, with about 2,200 soldiers, into military police units. About 55 percent of the Army's 38,500 military police officers are in the National Guard or Reserve.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/11/national/11ARMY.html?ei=5062&en=3cd351651b3532e3&ex=1079586000&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1079013616-FTAAwRuDv51TS62evyBVcw>

6. *March 11, Federal Computer Week* — **Net-centric war needs security. Although the rest of the Department of Defense has adopted the concept of network-centric warfare wholesale, scientists and engineers at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) argue that just being networked is not going to be enough to counter challenges American troops are likely to face in the future.** Speaking at a conference, program managers from DARPA's Advanced Technology Office (ATO) outlined the need for dynamic security and reliability to accompany the presence of a network. There was also agreement that an insecure network, or a network that isn't reliable or flexible could be worse than having no network at all. David Honey, ATO's director, said that while network-centricity could be the armed services' most valuable asset, it could also become its biggest liability. "We need good security and tools now, not perfect security and tools 10 years from now," said Army Col. Timothy Gibson, an ATO program manager. "Our current methods of securing systems don't

work very well. We need to push practical security, not necessarily perfect security."

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0308/web-darpa-03-11-04.asp>

7. *February 26, General Accounting Office* — **GAO-04-254: Missile Defense: Actions Being Taken to Address Testing Recommendations, but Updated Assessment Needed (Report).** In August 2000, the Department of Defense's (DoD) Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E), made 50 recommendations on a test program for a system to defeat long-range ballistic missile threats against the United States. DoD's Missile Defense Agency (MDA) plans to begin fielding the system by September 2004. **The General Accounting Office (GAO) examined (1) how MDA addressed DOT&E's recommendations and (2) what is known about the effectiveness of the system to be fielded by September 2004.** GAO issued a classified report on this subject in June 2003. This unclassified, updated version reflects changes in MDA's test schedule. GAO recommends DOT&E report on the status of MDA's responses to its recommendations and advise MDA how to modify the test program to address long-standing concerns. DoD agreed with these recommendations, while noting there have been many changes in its test program. GAO revised the report to reflect the latest, approved test program but believes most DOT&E recommendations remain relevant given the significant technical challenges and uncertainties facing MDA. Highlights:  
<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04254high.pdf>  
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-254>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *March 11, ZDNet Australia* — **Banks dismissive of 'phishing' losses according to security experts. The debate over the threat posed by e-mail online banking scams or "phishing attacks" is increasing, with security experts accusing banks of ignoring danger signs. According to the Anti-Phishing Working Group, the number of phishing attacks carried out globally has risen from three to about 50 per week since last November with Australian banks being among the most targeted in the world. However, Australia's main banking industry body, the Australian Bankers' Association (ABA), says losses from online banking fraud are not material enough to warrant boosting online banking security. ABA chief executive officer, David Bell, said other forms of graft such as credit card fraud were much more worthy of the banks' attention. Professor Bill Caelli, an Internet expert, says the banks' risk assessment in the online fraud sphere is complacent. Near the heart of the issue is whether the static password-based authentication systems currently used by banks are adequate for online commerce.** Security experts argue that online banking requires a two-layer authentication method equivalent in integrity to that employed for conventional offline transactions. Internet banking is a single layer authentication method.  
Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0.39020375.3914825.9.00.htm>
9. *March 11, New Zealand Press Association* — **Online scammers renew Westpac attack. Westpac bank customers in Australia have been targeted by internet savvy fraudsters for the fourth time in seven months. The scammers are trying to con them into revealing account login details and passwords.** Spokesperson Paul Gregory said the bank had been inundated by some 500 phone calls and more than 100 e-mails from concerned customers.

**Seven people had bought in to the bogus e-mail and the bank was monitoring their accounts.** The scam purports to help "avoid frequently fraud transactions and to keep your deposited funds in safety." The e-mail asks customers here to enter a Website and enter their account login and password details. Gregory noted the fraudsters had this time hijacked the Westpac Australia brand, and said police in that country would be investigating.

Source: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/stuff/0,2106,2842282a28,00.html>

10. *March 11, Federal Computer Week* — **Social Security, IRS numbers fuel identification theft. Widespread misuse of Social Security numbers and individual taxpayer identification numbers results in millions of dollars in federal benefit payments and tax refunds to workers not legally eligible to work or live in the United States, a panel of experts told Congress.** The practice hurts millions of citizens who are victims of identity theft by having their Social Security numbers stolen and misused, witnesses said. Testifying March 10 before a joint hearing of the House Ways and Means Committee's Oversight and Social Security Subcommittee, federal officials from the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration condemned the unrestricted use of those key federal identifiers for state government and commercial transactions for which the numbers were never intended. **The lack of reliable information systems of authenticating personal identities is a large part of the problem, witnesses said.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0308/web-ssn-03-11-04.a.sp>

11. *March 10, Finextra.com* — **New Zealand Central Clearing House proposed. The New Zealand stock exchange is proposing to develop a Central Clearing House (CCH) for share ownership changes in a bid to eliminate trading glitches caused by its current system where share registries track movements in stock holdings.** The Exchange was forced to abandon trading in shares in 71 securities on Tuesday, March 9, after its network was unable to connect with share registry, BK Registries. Connectivity failures also halted trading last August when problems with a software upgrade at an associated share registry meant that the exchange was unable to confirm that transfers of shares were being recorded. The exchange said at the time that the inability to confirm trades against holdings compromised the integrity of the market. New Zealand Limited, which operates the exchange says **the proposed CCH system would ensure that markets would not be affected by failures and outages in other parts of the securities landscape.**

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=11379>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Transportation Sector**

12. *March 11, Associated Press* — **FedEx cargo jet blows all eight tires. No injuries or major delays were reported Thursday, March 11, after a FedEx jet blew all eight tires and blocked a runway while landing at the Fort Lauderdale, FL, airport.** The A-300 Federal Express cargo plane was landing around 7 a.m. when the tires blew out. The airplane was left on the runway until new rims and tires can be installed, said Jim Reynolds, spokesman for Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. Air traffic was shifted to an alternate runway, Reynolds said. Agents with the National Transportation Safety Board were at the accident site to determine what caused the tires to blow.



Source: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-311airplanelires.0.700668.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>

13. *March 11, The Daily Record (Baltimore)* — **Maryland Dept. of Transportation considers restructuring agency overseeing Port of Baltimore.** With a key Maryland economic driver facing growing competition, the state Department of Transportation plans to study restructuring the state agency that oversees the Port of Baltimore. A nine-member panel will meet throughout the summer to study the port's competitors with an eye on revamping the Maryland Port Administration. They'll look at a variety of options, transportation department spokesperson John P. Cahalan said. They'll look at the specifics of privatization and whether it is in the best interest of the port, Maryland and the region to modify the way the port is run or to leave it as it is. **As the shipping and trade industries grow increasingly competitive, several East Coast port agencies have moved toward greater independence. According to the American Association of Port Authorities, 40 percent of ports in North America are run by independent port districts, most of which have the ability to levy taxes within a specified district.** The port, which speckles the waterfront in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, supports 15,700 jobs directly and 17,200 indirect and induced jobs. The port annually generates \$1.4 billion in business revenue and \$2 billion in personal income, according to a 2002 economic impact study.

Source: [http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnni.w/Story.nsp?story\\_id=48269412&ID=cnni.w&scategory=Transportation:Regulations&](http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnni.w/Story.nsp?story_id=48269412&ID=cnni.w&scategory=Transportation:Regulations&)

14. *March 11, New York Post* — **Four injured after locomotive unhitches in New York. A driverless, out-of-control LIRR locomotive roared through several crossings near the Queens-Brooklyn border yesterday, March 10, hitting five vehicles and injuring four people, two of them critically. The engine plowed through the cars as they crossed the tracks at three spots along the little-used Bushwick branch, leaving behind a path of destruction and burning debris,** officials said. The engine traveled nearly 1 1/2 miles after it came loose from two other locomotives at around 2:10 p.m. and meandered down the freight line during an engine change at the Fresh Pond Yard behind Rentar Plaza Shopping Center in Middle Village, officials said. Mayor Bloomberg said the cause is under investigation. At one point, the locomotive hit two trucks owned by the New York and Atlantic Railway a few blocks away, over the Brooklyn border near Onderdonk Avenue. The impact sparked a minor fire near some tanks containing acetylene and oxygen, fire officials said. One of the trucks was parked on the tracks because workers were doing repairs when the locomotive bore down on them, officials said. The engine came to a halt moments later, just a few blocks away at the end of the line when part of the truck got wedged under it, officials said.

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=17&id=27362>

15. *March 11, The Morning News (Bentonville, AR)* — **Two bridges closed for safety.** Signs popped up a week ago in the Siloam Springs (Arkansas) area notifying drivers two county bridges endangering public safety had been permanently closed. **Benton County Judge Gary Black last week ordered the bridges closed on Chamber Springs and Kincheloe roads. Both bridges, near U.S. 412, date back to 1922 and cross the Illinois River, according to Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department information.** The state feels "these two bridges are completely unsafe," said Travis Harp, Benton County assistant administrator. Arkansas' bridges are inspected every two years, or more frequently if they are in bad shape,

said Butch Martin, a district construction engineer for the highway department. Both bridges had severe disintegration in the concrete. It would take a lot of work to get them back in shape, Martin said. The county may also have to close the historic War Eagle Bridge for repair in the future, he said. The future of the closed bridges is up to Benton County, Martin said. Harp said the county has no plans to take them down.

Source: <http://www.nwaonline.net/280013716517865.bsp>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

16. *March 11, EUPolitix.com* — **Postal VAT approved. Europe's postage stamps could become more pricey after MEPs voted to place VAT on postal services on March 11.** After the proposal was rejected in December, European liberals and conservatives formally pushed through amendments to the proposal which lifts the exemption of VAT on all postal services in the European Union. These amendments mean national governments would be able to choose to apply a lower VAT rate to letters and parcels weighing under ten kilos in an effort to protect private users of postal services. The original European Commission proposal would have forced normal VAT rates on any post above two kilos. European Union capitals must take the final decision on any tax issues and the parliament's view is not binding but this vote is likely to pave the way for government approval of the directive.

Source: <http://www.eupolitix.com/EN/News/200403/8861e76f-8713-470f-91ab-926a66c16160.htm>

17. *March 10, Associated Press* — **Post office nixes personalized stamps.** The U.S. Postal Service said Wednesday, March 10, it has decided against personalized stamps. The special stamps had been recommended by a presidential commission on the postal service's future. However, a citizen's advisory committee opposed the idea. The committee's 15 members are appointed by the postmaster general to help sift through the thousands of proposals for postage stamps that the post office receives every year. Personalized stamps are popular in Australia and Canada. **Virginia Noelke, chairwoman of the stamp advisory committee, told Postmaster General John Potter in a letter that the risks of such stamps seem to be much higher than any possible rewards.** In her letter Noelke listed several reasons for opposing personalized stamps. **The agency could face legal action over freedom of speech issues if it tried to limit the types of messages that could appear on personalized stamps.** It would be impossible to prevent people from using someone else's likeness or copyrighted material without permission. There is no personalized currency and having personalized postage would blur the distinction between securities and other paper documents. Legally, stamps are receipts for the prepayment of postage. **It would be increasingly difficult to catch stamp counterfeiters.**

Source: <http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/8153548.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Agriculture Sector**

18.

*March 12, Associated Press* — **Bird flu mutating at British Columbia poultry farm.** Tests have revealed mutating strains of avian flu at a chicken farm just north of the U.S. border, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has reported, and a second farm also is under quarantine. Agency officials said Tuesday, March 10, that severe as well as mild strains of the H7 virus were found at Loewen Acres hatchery in Abbotsford, a few miles north of Sumas. Officials previously thought only the weaker form was present. Tests from a second barn hatchery show the virus was changing from low to high pathogenicity, which "means it's a nasty virus on birds, it does kill birds at a higher rate, so it's more deadly for the birds," agency veterinarian Dr. Ken Stepushyn said. **The risk to human health remains low, and the virus found on the farm is not the same form of avian flu that is killing people in Asia,** officials emphasized. Since the disease was found at Loewen Acres, five workers have fallen ill with mild flu and conjunctivitis. Tests showed avian flu was not to blame in three of those cases. **Authorities were continuing to check poultry farms in the area for signs of the virus, believed to have been spread by wild ducks.** Several countries, including Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, have restricted imports of Canadian poultry.

Source: <http://news.bellinghamherald.com/stories/20040311/TopStories /180435.shtml>

19. *March 11, Medical News Today* — **Two new bird flu vaccines developed in China.** Two new types of the H5 influenza vaccine have been developed in China, said the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry says that an enlarged regional experiment will take place. They have approved batch production of the two types of vaccines for the experiment. The Agriculture Ministry and the State Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory developed these new vaccines. **One is a H5N1 inactivated vaccine and the other is a recombinant fowlpoxvaccine. They think these new vaccines will provide longer protection. They have a higher antigen content compared to the vaccines currently in use.** An official from the ministry said that the new vaccines have recently passed the appraisal by the State Agricultural Trans-gene Biological Safety Commission and the Animal Medicine Appraisal Commission.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/index.php?newsid=6480>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Food Sector**

20. *March 11, High Plains Journal (Kansas)* — **USDA using science for food safety.** A U.S. agricultural official said science is the foundation of policy making in protecting public health, particularly when dealing with food safety. Elsa Murano, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) undersecretary for food safety, wanted to make one message clear to beef producers attending a weekend town hall meeting at the Houston Livestock Show, the Bush administration "is working overtime" to protect public health and improve food safety, she said. **Murano said new baseline studies will examine various practices performed at slaughter plants. The studies will be used to further eliminate the potential of E. coli and other pathogens that can be a health risk to the consumer.** "Right now, when somebody asks about the prevalence of E.coli in various parts of the country and what plants do better than others, it's very difficult to say," she said. "The only data we have is regulatory data and it's collected at specific establishments." A baseline study will give a more "evenly spread look" to see where E.coli is present, Murano said. Sampling will be done across the country not just at specific plants, but also "examine slaughter practices and some practices that are specific to



some establishments," she said.

Source: <http://www.hpj.com/dtnnewstable.cfm?type=story&sid=11250>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Water Sector**

21. *March 11, The Morning News (AR)* — **Two states agree to develop water testing protocol. Arkansas and Oklahoma officials agreed Wednesday, March 10, to a time line for developing a plan to monitor water quality in the Illinois River and other shared streams.** The Arkansas–Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission charged its engineering and natural resources committees to agree on a draft protocol for testing water quality by June, when the commission will meet again to consider the plan. The plan must be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by August, officials said. The development of a water quality monitoring plan is one element of a deal worked out between Arkansas and Oklahoma officials in December. **Arkansas agreed to a number of steps to reduce phosphorus levels in shared streams, to try to meet Oklahoma's water quality standards that include a phosphorus limit of 0.037 part per million.**

Source: <http://www.nwaonline.net/280013717757719.bsp>

22. *March 10, Associated Press* — **Western drought expected to ease. The drought that has gripped the West for the last several years is expected to ease some in the coming year, although Bush administration officials warned Tuesday, March 9, that water wars will continue.** Much of New Mexico and parts of Montana and Idaho are forecast to continue suffering from a severe drought, according to projections from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. **But the long-term drought has left reservoirs in Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Oregon with less than half of their normal reserve, and it could take as many as 20 years worth of normal precipitation to replenish the supply.** Even in normal conditions, many areas will continue to be plagued by fights over water because of competing demands and rapid growth in the area, Bennett Raley, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for water and science, told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "Unlike the past century, when water crises were intense but typically occurred in drought years and only affected resources and economies of local and regional importance, water supply-related crises in this century will affect economies and resources of national and international importance unless we take action now," Raley said.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2004/03/10/build/nation/75-drought-ease.inc>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Public Health Sector**

23. *March 11, Associated Press* — **Vaccine has fewer side effects.** An experimental smallpox vaccine produces milder side effects than the traditional vaccine and has been shown in laboratory tests to protect monkeys and mice against a pox virus, researchers say. **The vaccine, modified vaccinia Ankara or MVA, is a weakened strain of the vaccinia virus. The new**

**vaccine caused the immune systems of monkeys to produce protective antibodies and white blood cells about as effectively as Dryvax, the traditional smallpox vaccine, the researchers report this week in the journal Nature.** Dr. Bernard Moss of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one of the National Institutes of Health, said the test proved that MVA was safer because monkeys injected only with MVA did not develop the sores and other side effects common in traditional smallpox vaccinations. "We don't believe the MVA will be better than the standard vaccine, which is excellent, but we do believe it will be safer," said Moss. "If it approaches the effectiveness of the standard vaccine, then it would be very useful for people who are unable to take the standard vaccine."

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/health/ny-hspox113703286mar11.0.1475029.story?coll=ny-health-headlines>

24. *March 11, Associated Press* — **HIV test mix-up may affect hundreds. More than 400 patients at Maryland General Hospital in Baltimore, might have received incorrect HIV and hepatitis test results during a 14-month period ending in August 2003, state officials say.** Some patients might have been told they were HIV-negative when in fact they were positive — and vice versa — and the hospital failed to notify the patients of the problem, said Nelson J. Sabatini, secretary of the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Hepatitis C, for which some patients were tested, can cause a chronic liver infection that could eventually lead to liver failure and cancer. The testing problem affected about 460 patients, most of whom were tested for HIV, according to Miller. He added that efforts were under way to notify the patients and urge them to return to the hospital for a free re-test.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/HEALTH/03/11/hiv.results.glitch.ap/index.html>

25. *March 11, University of Michigan Health System* — **Medical privacy law makes health research more difficult.** As the one-year anniversary of the nation's medical privacy law approaches, a new study shows the negative impact that its implementation may be having on certain kinds of health research. **Researchers from the University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center recently showed how HIPAA, the national medical privacy act, severely affected their ability to study heart attack patients after they left the hospital. This kind of long-term "outcome" study is crucial for evaluating medical care, such as the number of patients who die or have complications after surgery or hospitalization.** But HIPAA requires written authorization from a patient before he or she can be contacted to gather personal health information for a research study. The UM researchers had previously used a verbal privacy authorization, obtained when they called patients at home months after they left the hospital. But when they switched from the verbal consent to a HIPAA-compliant written authorization that had to be mailed to patients and mailed back, they found a sizable drop in the percentage of patients who gave consent to be called. **The percentage participation plummeted from 96.1 percent to 38.5 percent.** As a result, the consented population was not representative of the entire population of patients the researchers wanted to study. That could bias study results.

Source: [http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2004-03/uomh-snm031104.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-03/uomh-snm031104.php)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Government Sector**

26. *March 11, Government Computer News* — State begins shift to digital travel documents.

The State Department has begun gathering digital fingerprints from overseas visa applicants, building on a six-year-old program it began for Mexican border-crossing documents. The effort is part of a program to rapidly expand the use of biometric information on travel documents for foreign visitors to the United States and for U.S. citizens traveling abroad, said Joanne Arzt, senior biometrics adviser for State's Bureau of Consular Affairs. The department in September began gathering digital scans of two fingerprints each from visa applicants at 80 consular posts. Fingerprint data now is gathered at about 90 posts, and since January the Homeland Security Department has been checking the prints against records of known and suspected terrorists as well as other criminals. October is the deadline under the Enhanced Border Security Act for countries not in the visa waiver program to begin issuing passports with digital biometric information for anyone who wants to travel to this country. **The new passports will contain 64K chips with antennas for contactless use. The chips will contain a machine-readable version of the data that is now included on paper passports.**

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/homeland-security/25218-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/homeland-security/25218-1.html)

[[Return to top](#)]

## Emergency Services Sector

27. *March 11, Firehouse.com* — Firehouse World educates record number of fire, rescue & EMS professionals. Firehouse World, the only major west coast fire and emergency services exposition and conference, has announced that this year's show successfully educated and trained over 6,000 fire service professionals, more than a 20% increase over last year. Over 1,300 students participated in Firehouse World's 2004 life saving hands-on training program, held last month in San Diego. Firehouse World's Keynote presenters, Division Chief Bill Clayton and Assistant Chief John Hawkins, both from the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, and Battalion Chief Mike Alder, San Bernardino City Fire Department, directed fire teams during the October 2003 wildfires, the largest in California's history. Speaking to standing room only crowds, the commanders shared their harrowing experiences, important lessons learned and reviewed ways to prepare for future fires of that magnitude.

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=27382>

[[Return to top](#)]

## Information and Telecommunications Sector

28. *March 10, IDG News Service* — Microsoft upgrades fix for Outlook from 'important' to 'critical'. One day after releasing a trio of security patches, Microsoft is upgrading the seriousness of one of those fixes to from "important" to "critical." The update released in security bulletin MS04-009 fixes a problem with the way the Outlook e-mail software treats URLs that use the "mailto" tag, which allows Website authors to insert links on Web pages that launch Outlook or other e-mail clients. A problem with the way Outlook interprets mailto URLs could allow an attacker to use a specially formatted mailto URL to gain access to files on

an affected system or insert and run malicious computer code. Microsoft initially claimed that only computers with the Outlook Today home page were vulnerable to attack. Outlook Today is the home page only until an e-mail account is created, Microsoft said. However, **following release of the bulletin, Finnish security researcher Jouko Pynnonen, who discovered the vulnerability, informed the company that malicious hackers could attack vulnerable Outlook installations even if Outlook Today isn't the default home page**, the company said. In a revised version of its security bulletin, Microsoft noted the discrepancy. Additional information is available on the Microsoft Website:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/offmar04.msp>



Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/securitytopics/security/story/0,10801,90992,00.html>

29. *March 10, International Herald Tribune* — **New domain is proposed.** Nine technology and telecommunications companies joined Wednesday, March 10, to announce their application for a mobile-specific domain. **The application, submitted to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) the overseer of the Internet's address system, calls for a new, for-profit joint venture set up by the companies to manage the mobile registry. Names purchased from the company would explicitly point to wireless-focused domains**, making the registry a new type of electronic postal code on the Internet. The companies could require any name registered under the new address heading to have a mobile-specific purpose. By contrast, names registered for use with .com, .net and other generic endings need not have any specific thematic purpose. After ICANN's current application round closes on March 16, independent evaluators will examine the proposals. The technology and telecommunications group expects the application process to take three to six months, and services based on the new address, if approved, might arrive by the first half of 2005.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/11/technology/11wire.html>

30. *March 10, Associated Press* — **ISPs sue over spam e-mails.** Some of the nation's largest Internet providers, in an unusual joint effort, said Wednesday, March 10, they filed six lawsuits against hundreds of people who were accused of sending millions of unwanted e-mails in violation of the new U.S. law against "spam." The legal actions represent the first major industry actions under the "can spam" legislation that went into effect January 1. The lawsuits were filed in federal courts in California, Georgia, Virginia and Washington state. The companies said the defendants include some of the nation's most notorious large-scale spammers. The Internet providers—collectively with tens of millions of subscribers—said they shared information, resources and investigative information to identify some of the defendants. Dozens of those named in the lawsuits, however, were identified only as "John Doe" defendants who were accused of e-mailing unwanted pitches for prescription drugs, herbal potions and weight loss plans. **The "can spam" legislation requires unsolicited e-mails to include a mechanism so recipients could indicate they did not want future mass mailings. The law also prohibits senders of unsolicited commercial e-mail from disguising their identity by using a false return address or misleading subject line, and it prohibits senders from harvesting addresses off Websites.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/LAW/03/10/spam.suits.ap/index.html>

| Current Alert Levels   |  |
|--|--|
| <br>AlertCon: 1 out of 4<br><a href="https://gtoc.iss.net">https://gtoc.iss.net</a> | <br>Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4<br><a href="http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/">http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</a>  |
| Current Virus and Port Attacks   |  |
| <b>Virus:</b>  | #1 Virus in the United States: <b>WORM_LOVGATE.G</b><br>Source: <a href="http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html">http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html</a> , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center<br>[Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States] |
| <b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>   | 3127 (mydoom), 80 (www), 135 (epmap), 21 (ftp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 1080 (socks), 3128 (squid-http)<br>Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center   |

[[Return to top](#)]

## General Sector

31. *March 11, Associated Press* — **American citizen charged with spying.** An American citizen was arrested Thursday, March 11, on charges she acted as an Iraqi spy before and after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, accepting \$10,000 for her work, prosecutors said. Susan Lindauer was arrested in her hometown of Takoma Park, MD, and was to appear in court later in the day in Baltimore, MD. She was accused of conspiring to act as a spy for the Iraqi Intelligence Service and with engaging in prohibited financial transactions involving the government of Iraq under dictator Saddam Hussein. **According to an indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Lindauer made multiple visits from October 1999 through March 2002 to the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations in Manhattan. There, she met with several members of the Iraqi Intelligence Service, the foreign intelligence arm of the government of Iraq that allegedly has played a role in terrorist operations, including an attempted assassination of former President George H.W. Bush, the indictment alleged.** On January 8, 2003, prosecutors said, Lindauer tried to influence U.S. foreign policy by delivering to the home of a U.S. government official a letter in which she conveyed her access to and contacts with members of Saddam's regime.  
Source: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20040311/D8188NK00.html>

32. *March 11, CNN* — **Police search for Madrid terror bombers.** Spanish government officials pinned the blame on the Basque separatist group ETA for Thursday's blasts (March 11) in Madrid that killed at least 192 people, but investigators were also exploring a lead with Arabic and Islamic links. **The brazen morning rush-hour terror strikes at city train stations also wounded at least 1,400.** The initial belief among officials was that ETA, designated a terror group by the United States and the European Union, was responsible. But Spanish Interior Minister Angel Acebes said authorities are investigating a van found in the town of Alcala de Henares, outside Madrid, with at least seven detonators and an Arabic tape



with Koranic teachings. The tape contained no threats and is a type available commercially. The van was stolen last month. **The new line of investigation, sparked by a citizen's tip, raised the possibility of a link to Islamic militants.** A U.S. official cautioned it was "still too early to say" whether the bombings were the work of ETA or other terror groups, including al Qaeda. The scale of the attack was unlike anything ETA has ever carried out. The highest death toll in any ETA-linked attack was in 1987 — when 21 were killed in a Barcelona supermarket blast.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/europe/03/11/spain.blasts/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information**

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

### **DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions: [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644

Subscription and Distribution Information Send mail to [nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov](mailto:nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov) or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644 for more information.

### **Contact DHS/IAIP**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [info@us-cert.gov](mailto:info@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.uscert.gov](http://www.uscert.gov).

### **DHS/IAIP Disclaimer**

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.

